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A15
30 a plurality of vanes positioned on said interior surface of said trommel and extending into said interior of said trommel wherein, upon rotation of said trommel, said coins are moved toward said output opening of said trommel;
a driver, coupled to said trommel so as to rotate said trommel;
a coin discriminator;
a transport device configured to transport coins from said output opening to said coin discriminator.

55 59 In a coin discriminating device, an apparatus for cleaning a mass of coins prior to conveyance to a coin discriminator, comprising:

a frame;

5 a container, removably coupled to said frame, having at least a first opening for admitting a first plurality of said mass of coins and a second opening, smaller than said first opening, for permitting exit of dirt from said container, wherein none of said first plurality of coins exits said container through said second opening to contact any other container in a concentric relationship to said container.

31600 Apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a frame and a tray, coupled to said frame, for collecting said dirt.

REMARKS

In the amendments set forth above, Claims 1, 22, 28-30, 35, 41, 43, 47, 50, 55, 57, 58 and 59 have been amended without intending to abandon or dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1-60 are pending in the present application.

The present application is generally directed to a method and an apparatus for conditioning coins prior to discrimination. In the parent application, the Examiner cited, *inter alia*, U.S. Patent No. 3,196,887 to White ("White") and U.S. Patent No. 2,398,955 to O'Toole ("O'Toole"). Applicants note that both the White reference and the O'Toole reference are directed to coin separators or sorters. In particular, both the White and O'Toole references

disclose devices having a plurality of perforated cylinders arranged such that the cylinders are concentric to one another. In operation, a plurality of coins is introduced to the innermost cylinder, and any coins having a diameter that is less than the diameter of a largest desired coin pass through the perforations of the innermost cylinder to a next cylinder. This process may continue until the desired number of separations have been achieved. Accordingly, it can be appreciated that at least some of the plurality of coins pass through the perforations or holes in the multiple, concentrically arrayed cylinders of the White and the O'Toole references.

In contrast, the present invention discloses a cylinder having perforations or holes sized such that no desired coin may pass through the provided holes. Accordingly, only foreign objects are allowed to pass through the holes. Furthermore, no discrimination takes place in the container or trommel of the present invention.

For example, Claim 1, as amended by the First Preliminary Amendment, recites

a container comprising at least a first wall forming an interior surface and an exterior surface . . . wherein a second opening in said at least a first wall . . . permits the exit of dirt from said container, wherein each coin of said plurality of coins contacts said interior surface, and wherein said second opening is sized such that none of said plurality of coins can pass through said second opening

Similarly, Claim 35 of the present application, as amended, recites

a container defining a container interior space and having . . . at least one opening for permitting exit of dirt from said container, wherein after said first plurality of said mass of coins is admitted to said container, none of said coins pass through said at least one opening for permitting exit of dirt to contact any other container

Amended Claim 43 is directed to a method of cleaning a plurality of coins. In particular, Claim 43, as amended, recites

rotating said container about said first axis, wherein none of said plurality of coins introduced into said first container passes through said plurality of holes to contact any other container.

Claim 50 is directed to a trommel. The trommel of Claim 50, as amended, includes a first portion having "a plurality of holes sized to prevent the passage therethrough of the smallest of a plurality of coins, wherein none of said plurality of coins touches a surface of any other trommel."

Claim 57 recites a coin conditioner that "includes a plurality of holes sized to prevent passage therethrough of the smallest of said coins, wherein none of said coins exits through any of said plurality of holes"

Claim 58 is directed to a coin discriminating system. The claimed system includes a trommel "having a plurality of circular holes having a diameter less than that of the smallest diameter coin . . . wherein none of said coins exits said trommel through said circular holes to contact any other trommel"

Claim 59 is directed to a coin discriminating device. The device includes a container having "a second opening . . . for permitting exit of dirt from said container, wherein none of said first plurality of coins exits said container through said second opening to contact any other container in a concentric relationship to said container." (

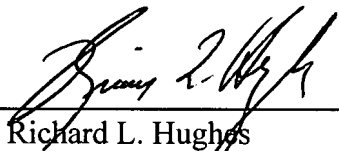
As set forth in detail above, the present invention, as set forth in the claims of the present application, is not anticipated by or obvious in view of the references cited in the parent applications. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 1-46 and 50-60 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 47 of the present application is generally directed to an apparatus for conveying a plurality of coins. In particular, Claim 47, as amended, recites a trough to accept a plurality of coins having an upper surface with "a curvature in at least a first direction, over the entirety of said surface, said curvature sufficient to avoid surface-tension adhesion between said surface and any of said plurality of coins, wherein only edge portions of said plurality of coins contact said upper surface." Support can be found generally at page 5, lines 24-29. The references cited by the Examiner in the parent applications are not believed to disclose such an apparatus. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 47-49 are in condition for allowance.

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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